252: Word Analysis Paper

Length: 3 pages (750 words)
Weight: 10% of your final grade
Format: MLA, Times, 12pt, Double Space, etc...

Sources: At least 2 sources as defined below

- **Academic journal article** (At least one)
  (Online or print; academic book also acceptable)
- **Other source** (not required if you cite two journals)
  (Slang or Etymological dictionary)
- Wikipedia is NOT an acceptable source
  (nor are other encyclopedias, blogs, or wikis)

*SEVERAL observations from natural speech are REQUIRED*

*ALSO: Use information from the text & discussions to support your claims*

Sample A word or set of words that have a fuzzy (or funky) function in English

Topics:

- “Like” as a conjunction (and other parts of speech/functions)
- The uses of “So”, including as a qualifier (*that was so cool…*)
- The overlap & distinctions between “kind”, “type”, and “sort”
- The shifting of “water” from a non-count to a count noun (*also “Coke”*)
- Varying uses of “bless” or “wicked” in conversation
- The way “some” and “any” complement each other
- Grammatical structure like: “There’s” + plural NP

*NOTE: Choose something similar to these: not necessarily one of these exactly…*

Target: Meaningful analysis of real language in real situations
In most cases there is a ‘semantic continuum’ for the overlap & distinction…

Format: *Italicize* or “quotation-mark” your key word whenever you use it

Avoid: Preaching about prescriptive rules

Grading: See separate rubric

Due Date: See schedule
OPTIONAL PRESENTATION

Each student is welcome to do one presentation during the semester. Two main purposes for this are: (1) share cool information with the class and (2) help you improve your paper before you submit it for a grade. Due to time constraints I cannot allow all students present on both papers, so get your reservation in early…

- Informal (3 – 5 minute) presentation, but keep us awake & inform us
- Includes key information from your research (but necessarily not all of it)
- Expect (and be ready to incorporate) feedback from the professor & the class
- Presentations may be made anytime up to two class days before the paper is due
- Extra credit will be available for comments from peers that the presenter finds useful
- The presenter’s extra credit is reflected in an improved grade from incorporating feedback
- This presentation is OPTIONAL, so if you don’t have something useful to say, don’t present!